

Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center

Cooperating Agencies:

USDI Bureau of Land Management
Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
USDA Forest Service

Dillon, Montana

NEWS RELEASE

For Release Immediately

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COUNTY ROADS NEAR WINSLOW FIRE REOPEN

DILLON, MONT., Sept. 2, 2003, 5 p.m.—County roads into the southern Centennial Valley will reopen Wednesday, September 3.

The voluntary evacuation order in effect for Lakeview, Mont., also has been lifted, though residents have been warned to be ready to evacuate again.

The road from Monida, Mont., to Henry's Lake, Idaho, had been closed because of the Winslow fire.

Meantime, the 82 fire fighters at Montana side of the Winslow fire are taking advantage of more favorable weather to make some headway on the very stubborn northeast corner of the fire.

Pumps in creeks are allowing fire fighters to get water onto the hot spots in that area of the fire.

This is the part of the fire closest to Lakeview, about two miles southwest of the community.

The fire, 60 miles southeast of Dillon, has burned 13,438 acres and is 50 percent contained.

With over 20 miles of fire line left to build, fire fighters estimate they'll have the fire contained by October 1.

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Still closed are areas involved in the Winslow fire, including the portion of the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge south of the South Centennial Road.

The Continental Divide trail is closed from Aldus Lake to Table Mountain.

On August 31, management of the fire was divided between two fire teams, one operating in Montana and the other in Idaho.